



Agenda Item # 10

BOA-002601-2023

View additional details on this proposal and all application materials using the following link:

[Applicant Materials for Consideration](#)

DETAILS

Location:

660 Dunlap Drive

Applicant / Agent:

Austal USA, Joey Nunnally, Agent

Property Owner:

Austal USA, LLC and EPIC Alabama Maritime Assets

Current Zoning:

I-2, Heavy Industry

Future Land Use:

Heavy Industry

Case Numbers:

6538/6233/5486

Unified Development Code Requirement:

- A 100-foot height limit for structures in an I-2, Heavy Industry District.

Board Consideration:

- To allow a building higher than 100 feet in an I-2, Heavy Industry District.


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BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT VICINITY MAP - EXISTING AERIAL



The site is surrounded by industrial units, open water and wetlands.

APPLICATION NUMBER <u> 6538 </u> DATE <u> September 11, 2023 </u>	 NTS
APPLICANT <u> Austal USA (Joey Nunnally, Agent) </u>	
REQUEST <u> Building Height Variance </u>	

SITE HISTORY

The subject site was originally developed as the Alabama Drydock and Shipbuilding Company in 1917, and remained such until that business ceased operations in the mid-1970s. Since then, the site has been under various ownerships, all for the purpose of marine vessel building, modification, or dismantling.

In 2008, a Tower Height Variance was approved by the Board to allow a 198-foot tall guyed weather observation tower, and in 2019, a Site Variance was approved to allow a 150-foot high flag pole on the site.

The site has had numerous Planned Unit Development (PUD) applications approved since 1996. The over-all site last received PUD approval in 2007 to allow multiple buildings on multiple parcels with shared parking and access.

In July 2023, the Planning Commission approved a Modification to a previously-approved Planned Unit Development (PUD) to expand within two areas of the facility in order to fabricate modular components for nuclear submarines constructed by other shipyards.

STAFF COMMENTS

Engineering Comments:

No comments.

Traffic Engineering Comments:

No comments.

Urban Forestry Comments:

Property to be developed in compliance with state and local laws that pertain to tree preservation and protection on both city and private properties [Act 929 of the 1961 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature (Acts 1961, p. 1487), as amended, and City Code Chapters 57 and 65]. Private removal of trees in the right-of-way will require approval of the Mobile Tree Commission. Removal of heritage trees from undeveloped residential sites, developed residential sites in historic districts, and all commercial sites will require a tree removal permit.

Fire Department Comments:

All projects within the City Limits of Mobile shall comply with the requirements of the City of Mobile Fire Code Ordinance (2021 International Fire Code). Fire apparatus access is required to be within 150' of all commercial and residential buildings. A fire hydrant is required to be within 400' of non-sprinkled commercial buildings and 600' of sprinkled commercial buildings.

Planning Comments:

The applicant is requesting a Building Height Variance to allow buildings higher than 100-feet in an I-2, Heavy Industry District; the Unified Development Code (UDC) does not allow buildings higher than 100-feet in an I-2, Heavy Industry District.

The entire application packet is available via the link on Page 1.

The site plan submitted indicates the proposed Final Assembly Building in the Northern portion of the over-all site would have a height of approximately 180-feet. In the Southern end of the over-all site, the proposed Modular Manufacturing Facility building would have a height of approximately 150-feet.

The applicant states that the ships that Austal has contracts to build are taller than the current building height allowances.

VARIANCE CONSIDERATIONS

Standards of Review:

Variances are not intended to be granted frequently. The applicant must clearly show the Board that the request is due to very unusual characteristics of the property and that it satisfies the variance standards. What constitutes unnecessary hardship and substantial justice is a matter to be determined from the facts and circumstances of each application.

Article 5 Section 10-E. 1. of the Unified Development Codes states that the Board of Adjustment may grant a variance if:

- The Applicant demonstrates that the variance shall not be contrary to the public interest;
- Where, owing to special conditions a literal enforcement of the provision of this Chapter will result in unnecessary hardship; and
- The spirit of this Chapter will be observed and substantial justice done.

Article 5 Section 10-E.2. states; no variance shall be granted:

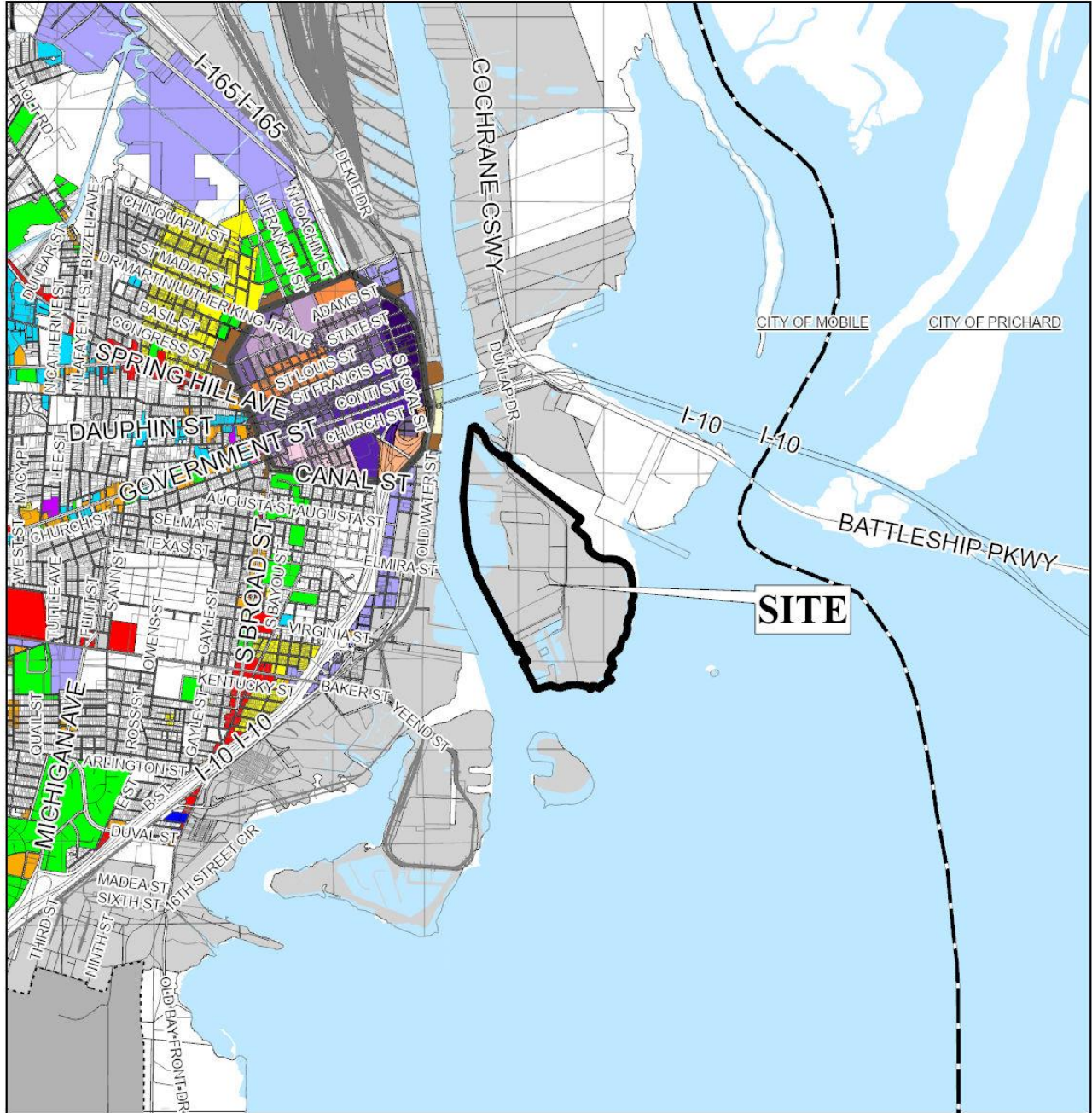
- (a) In order to relieve an owner of restrictive covenants that are recorded in Mobile County Probate Court and applicable to the property;
- (b) Where economic loss is the sole basis for the required variance; or
- (c) Where the variance is otherwise unlawful.

Considerations:

Based on the requested Variance application and documentation submitted, if the Board considers approval of the request, the following findings of fact must be present:

- 1) The variance will not be contrary to the public interest;
- 2) Special conditions exist such that a literal enforcement of the provisions of the chapter will result in unnecessary hardship; and
- 3) The spirit of the chapter shall be observed and substantial justice done to the applicant and the surrounding neighborhood by granting the variance.

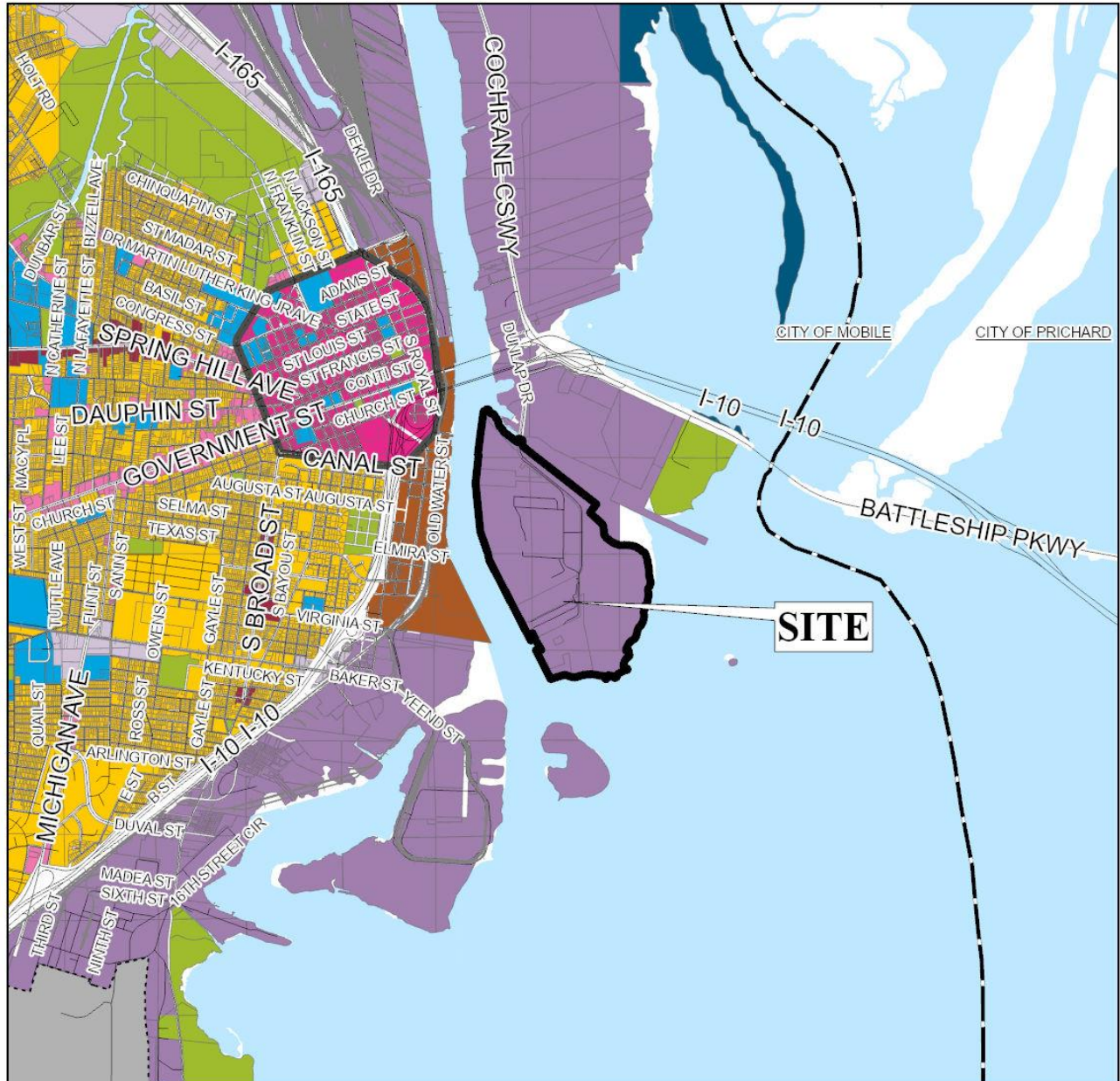
LOCATOR ZONING MAP



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REQUEST	Building Height Variance		



FLUM LOCATOR MAP



APPLICATION NUMBER 6538 DATE September 11, 2023

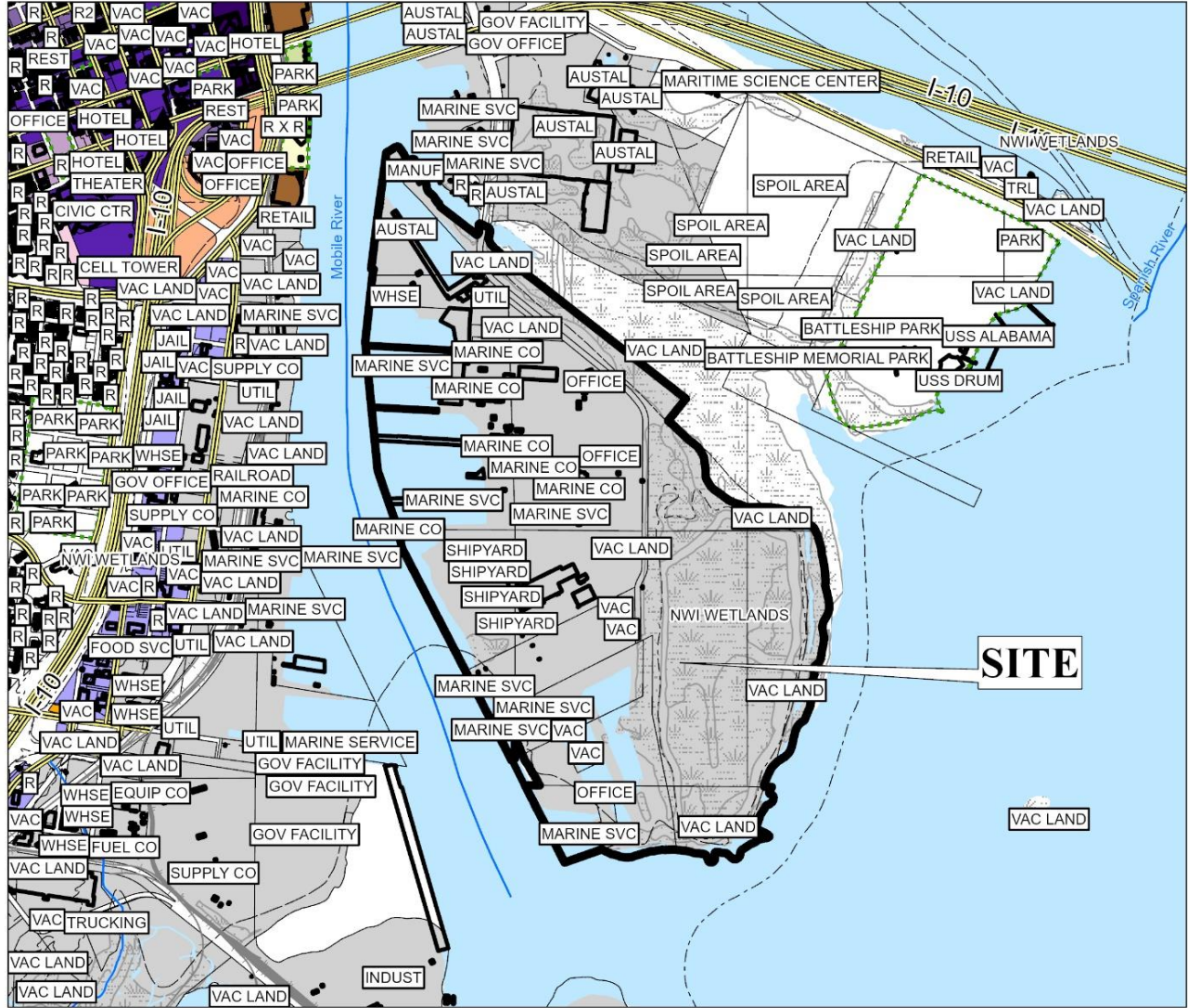
APPLICANT Austal USA (Joey Nunnally, Agent)

REQUEST Building Height Variance

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| ■ Low Density Residential | ■ Neighborhood Center - Traditional | ■ Downtown Waterfront | ■ Parks & Open Space |
| ■ Mixed Density Residential | ■ Neighborhood Center - Suburban | ■ Light Industry | ■ Water Dependent |
| ■ Downtown | ■ Traditional Corridor | ■ Heavy Industry | |
| ■ District Center | ■ Mixed Commercial Corridor | ■ Institutional | |



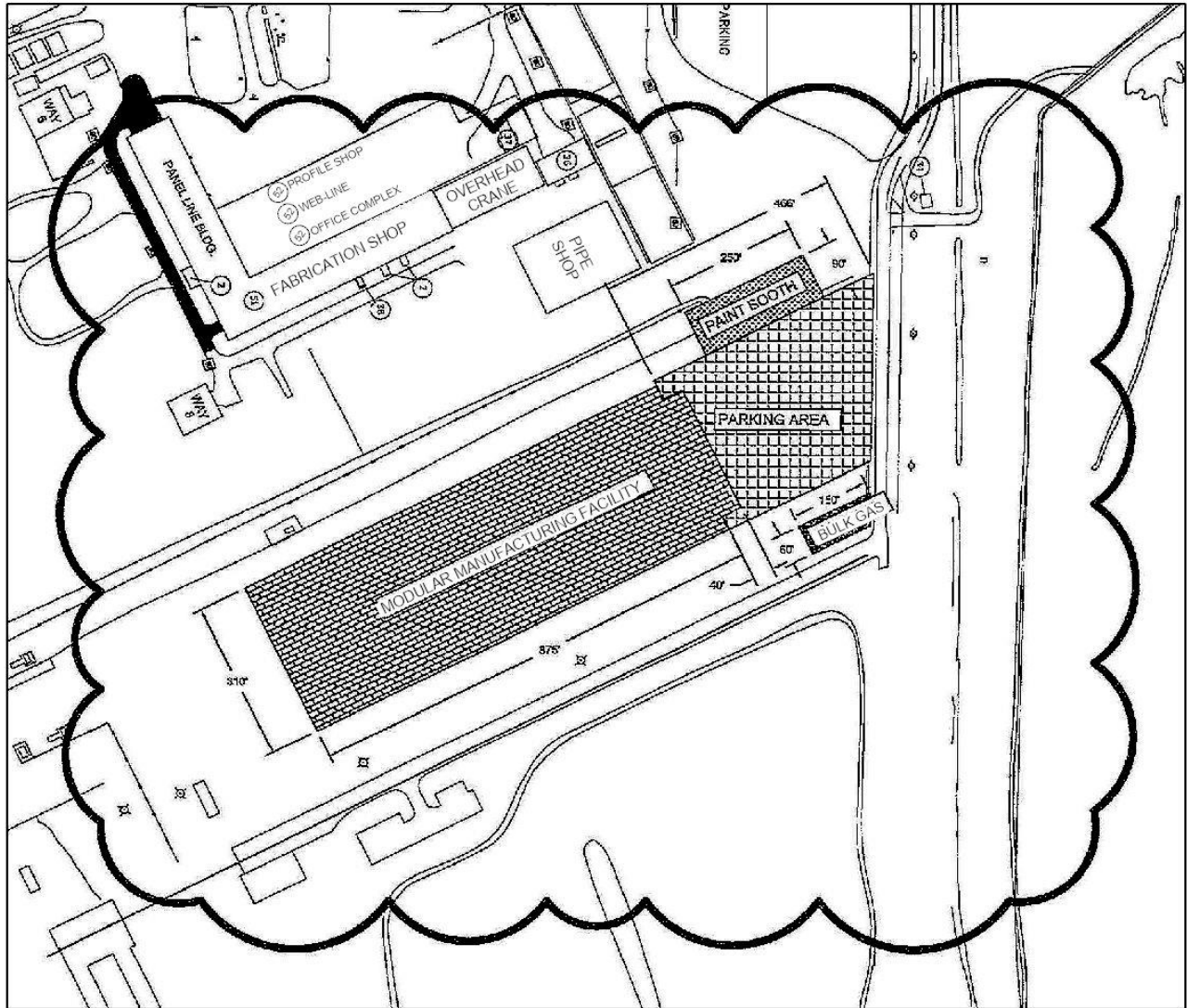
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT VICINITY MAP - EXISTING ZONING



The site is surrounded by industrial units, open water and wetlands.

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<table style="width: 100%; font-size: small;"> <tr> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> R-A</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> R-3</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> B-1</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> B-2</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> B-5</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> ML</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> I-2</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> OPEN</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> T-3</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> T-5.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td> R-1</td> <td> R-B</td> <td> T-B</td> <td> B-3</td> <td> CW</td> <td> MH</td> <td> PD</td> <td> SD</td> <td> T-4</td> <td> T-6</td> </tr> <tr> <td> R-2</td> <td> H-B</td> <td> LB-2</td> <td> B-4</td> <td> MM</td> <td> I-1</td> <td> MUN</td> <td> SD-WH</td> <td> T-5.1</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		R-A	R-3	B-1	B-2	B-5	ML	I-2	OPEN	T-3	T-5.2	R-1	R-B	T-B	B-3	CW	MH	PD	SD	T-4	T-6	R-2	H-B	LB-2	B-4	MM	I-1	MUN	SD-WH	T-5.1	
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R-2	H-B	LB-2	B-4	MM	I-1	MUN	SD-WH	T-5.1																							

SITE PLAN



The site plan illustrates the modular manufacturing facility and parking area.

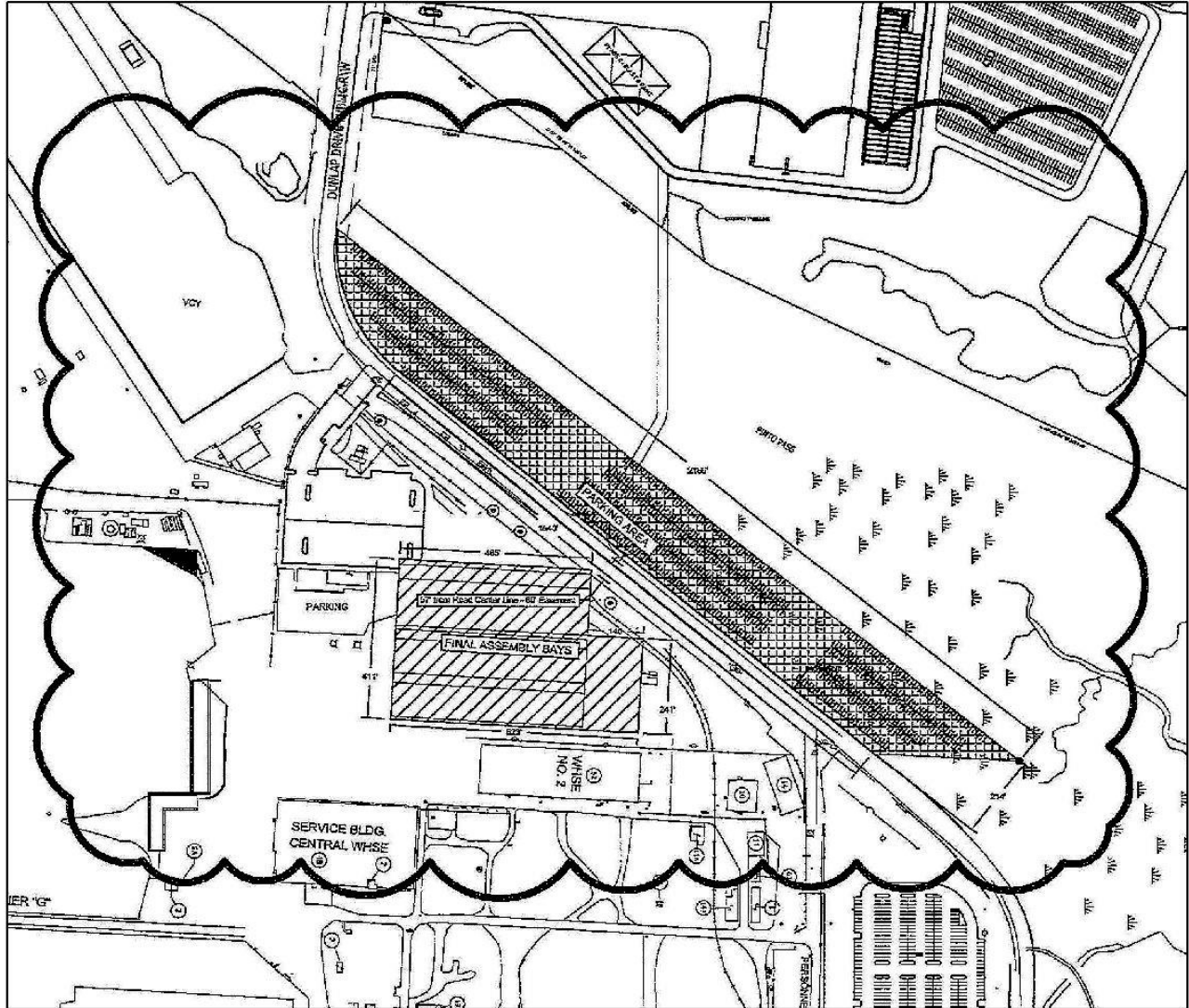
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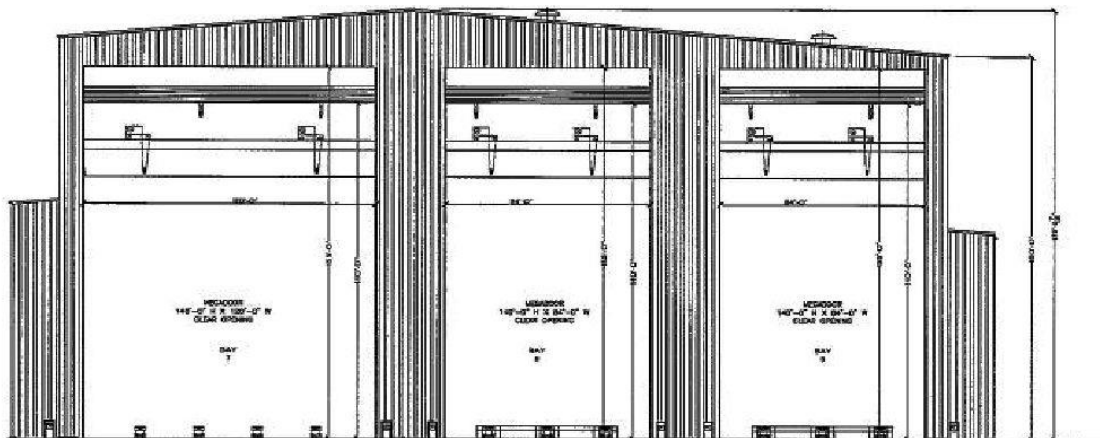
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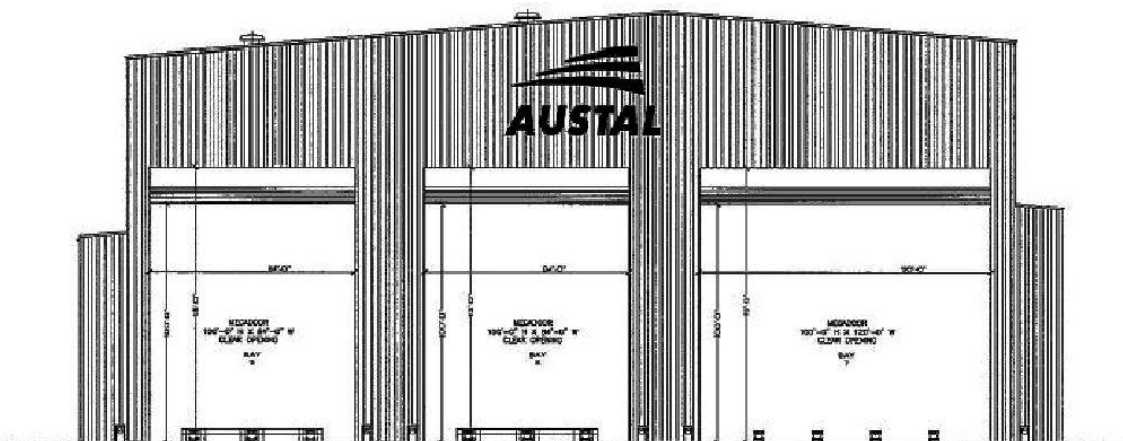
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DETAIL SITE PLAN



WEST ELEVATION
SCALE 1/8"=1'-0"

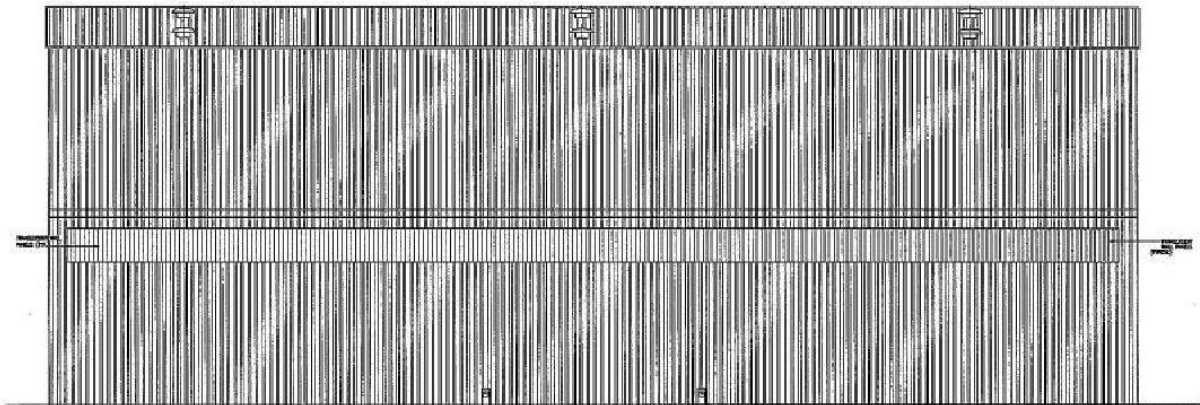


EAST ELEVATION
SCALE 1/8"=1'-0"

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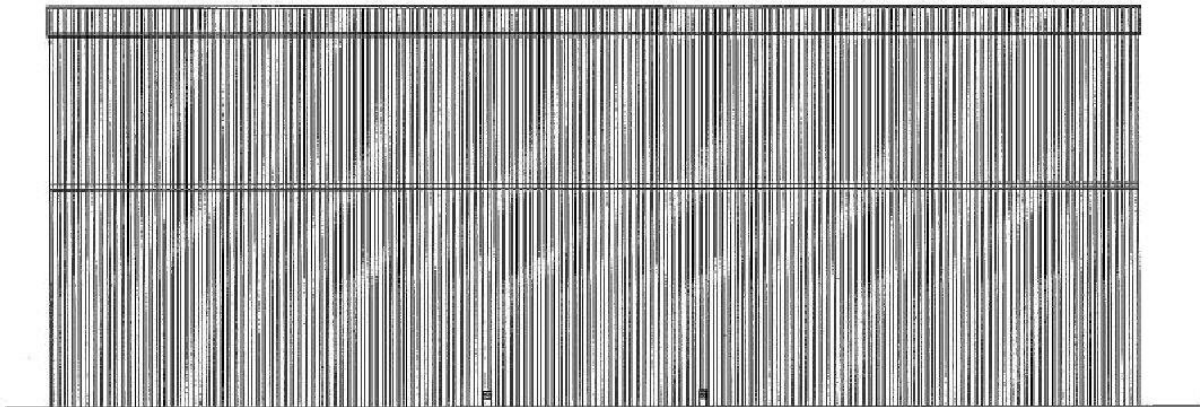


DETAIL SITE PLAN



SOUTH ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"



NORTH ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"

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DETAIL SITE PLAN

MMF 3

Austal USA Facility Parking Landscaping Concept

- Ground covering: Asiatic Jasmine
- Tree: Southern Live Oak



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ZONING DISTRICT CORRESPONDENCE MATRIX			LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (LDR)	MIXED DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (MXDR)	DOWNTOWN (DT)	DISTRICT CENTER (DC)	NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER - TRADITIONAL (NC-T)	NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER - SUBURBAN (NC-S)	TRADITIONAL CORRIDOR (TC)	MIXED COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR (MCC)	LIGHT INDUSTRIAL (LI)	HEAVY INDUSTRY (HI)	INSTITUTIONAL LAND USE (INS)	PARKS & OPEN SPACE (POS)	DOWNTOWN WATERFRONT (DW)	WATER DEPENDENT USES (WDWRU)
RESIDENTIAL - AG	R-A															
ONE-FAMILY RESIDENCE	R-1	■					■		■					□		
TWO-FAMILY RESIDENCE	R-2	■					■		■					□	○	
MULTIPLE-FAMILY	R-3	○	■				■	■						□	○	
RESIDENTIAL-BUSINESS	R-B		○				■		■					□	○	
TRANSITIONAL-BUSINESS	T-B		○		■		■	■	■					□		
HISTORIC BUSINESS	H-B			■			■		■					□		
VILLAGE CENTER	TCD						■	■						□		
NEIGH. CENTER	TCD						■	■						□		
NEIGH. GENERAL	TCD						■							□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-6			■										□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-5.1			■			■		□					□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-5.2			■			■							□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-4			■			■		□					□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-3			■			■							□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	SD-WH										○	○		□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DD	SD	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○		□		
BUFFER BUSINESS	B-1		□				□	■	■	■				□	○	
NEIGH. BUSINESS	B-2		○				□	■	■	■				□	○	
LIMITED BUSINESS	LB-2		○				□	■	■	■				□	○	
COMMUNITY BUSINESS	B-3				■					■			○	□	○	
GEN. BUSINESS	B-4			■						■			○	□	○	
OFFICE-DISTRIBUTION	B-5									■	■			□	□	
LIGHT INDUSTRY	I-1										■			□	□	□
HEAVY INDUSTRY	I-2											■		□		□

Zoning District Correspondence Matrix

- Directly Related
- Elements of the zoning category are related to the future LU category, but with qualifications (such as a development plan with conditions)
- Land use category is appropriate, but the district does not directly implement the category (e.g., open space in an industrial district)



HEAVY INDUSTRY (HI)

This designation applies to larger parcels primarily devoted to high-impact industrial activity which is preferably removed from residential and commercial uses. Light industry, industrial business or heavy commercial lands may separate heavy industry from other land uses.

Heavy industrial areas include collection, treatment, and manufacturing processes which use raw materials, are distinguished by the presence of noise, vibration, and/or odors, and benefit from easy access to a multimodal freight transportation network. Certain types of

heavy industry are characterized by low building coverage and activities that rely on large areas of outdoor storage of raw material stockpiles and/or waste-product disposal areas, storage tanks, pipelines, and transportation yards to handle the transfer of heavy materials. The outdoor storage areas should be screened as much as possible by the nature of the stored materials.

Land designated as HI may be underdeveloped due to the presence of wetlands on portions of the parcel. In these cases, the wetlands may serve to buffer surrounding uses from the potential impacts of the heavy industrial use. Undeveloped areas of HI parcels that have tree cover may be used as

buffering between the heavy industrial use and other uses. Where buffers do not exist naturally, they should be provided as spelled out in the zoning and subdivision regulations. Open areas reserved for dredge disposal are also designated as HI and may contain wetlands.

In Mobile, port terminal facilities, docks, shipyards, drydocks, etc., are mostly owned by the State of Alabama. Although not subject to local zoning, these facilities are shown as heavy industrial uses in the FLUM.